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#14

SAM KIETH • WILLIAM MESSNER-LOEBS

JIM SINCLAIR • RONDA PATTISON

THE MAXX

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SAM KIETH • WILLIAM MESSNER-LOEBS

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THE MAXX

maxximized

GUESS WHO'S...

...BACK?

THE MAXX
MAXXIMIZED

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I STOLE SOME MORE *FOOD* FOR YOU, JASPER.

THANKS, LINC. AND THANKS FOR NOT TELLING. IF DAD FOUND OUT, HE'D WUP ME GOOD.

JEEZ, IT'S BEEN *THREE WEEKS.* I'D GIVE *ANYTHING* NOT TO HAVE MY *HAND* STUCK IN THIS STUPID DIMENSIONAL PORTAL THING.

ANYTHING? EVEN YOUR *NEW BIKE* WITH THE GLOW-IN-THE-DARK HANDLEBARS?

SURE. WHY?

AAAA!!!

OOOOUUUF!

WHERE AM I?

LESSEE... SARAH AND I USED MY OLD KEY TO SLIP INTO JULIE'S HOUSE. WE WERE TRYING TO FIND SOME CLUE AS TO WHERE SHE MAY HAVE GONE. ALSO, HER RECORD COLLECTION WAS JUST SITTING THERE...

I REMEMBER LISTENING TO SOME OLD BEE GEES DISKS AND GETTING VERY SLEEPY...

I MUST HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP... SLIPPED INTO THE PARALLEL REALITY OF THE OUTBACK.

FUNNY. MY OUTBACK HAS BEEN A DESERT SINCE JULIE LEFT.

AND THIS PLACE SEEMS TO BE MADE UP OF QUILTS AND LINOLEUM!

NOT A GOOD SIGN.

OH, YEAH. LINOLEUM, QUILTS, AND HUGE PIPES MADE OF ALUMINUM.

MUSTN'T FORGET THE BIG PIPES!

ACTUALLY, IF YOU SQUINT THEY LOOK JUST LIKE HUGE LAWN CHAIRS.

AT LEAST I'M NOT TALKING OUT LOUD TO MYSELF YET. THAT'S GOOD.

THAT'S PROGRESS.

HAH?

STOP! THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY! I AM THE KING!

ONLY I CAN LOOT HERE...IN MY CHARMING AND ROGUISH WAY, OF COURSE!

THE KING?

YES, AND I'M HERE TO PROTECT THE PRINCESS FROM ALL INTERLOPERS!

SPLASH

UH-OH. THE JOINT'S LEAKING! MUST'VE BEEN A PSYCHIC PENETRATION SOMEWHERE! A VIOLATION!

HOWEVER WILL I GET AWAY? I'LL DROWN! MY LEGS ARE TOO SHORT!

;sigh; ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! I'LL TAKE YOU!

UH, THANKS. COULD YOU NOT DENT MY LITTLE TIN BODY TOO?

SPLOOSH

SPLOOSH

SPLOOSH

LOOKIT, MR. DIAL-A-DOODLE! A BIG PURPLE TOY THAT TALKS TO ITSELVES!

HOW ORIGINATIBLE!

BITCH, BITCH, BITCH. SAY, DO YOU KNOW IF THOSE ARE REALLY LAWN CHAIRS?

PLUMPKIN

YUSS!

I'M NOT A TOY! I'M... I'M...

AND I DON'T TALK TO MYSELF EITHER!

HEY! THE WATER'S GETTING DEEPER ON THE CEILING!

'COURSE IT IS! EVERY-THING'S BEEN TURNED *UPSIDE DOWN!*

YOU TELLS 'IM, MR. RUTABAGA-HEAD!

WE LOVES YOU, MR. TALKS-TO-ITSELF!

PUMPKIN

YUSS!

TAKES US WITH YOU!

OH, F'R...

I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT OTHER BOZO I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE CARRYING?

GEEZ, I HATE DREAM LOGIC!

IT... SMELLS LIKE... LIKE...

WHAT'S THAT?

...A HORSE.

A VERY

BIG...

THE WAGON! QUICK! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!

IF ALLEN FUNT COMES OUT NOW, I'M GONNA DIE!

OH, MAN!

THOSE SURE DO LOOK LIKE LAWN CHAIRS.

I WILL SAVE YOU, ALL MY SMALL FRIENDS!

I AM THE PROTECTOR OF THIS PLACE. I AM GOODNESS AND JUSTICE.

I AM THE MAXX!

OH, MAN. MY HEAD HURTS.

PUMPK

AND WE'LL *HELP!* MR. RUTABAGA-HEAD WILL PULL THE STRING ON MR. YAKITY-TAKITY *SO* HE CAN READ WHAT'S WRITTEN ON MR. DIAL-A-DOODLE AND WE'LL KNOW *WHERE* TO GO!

THE FIRST ROOM?

THERE IS NO NEED. THE MAXX KNOWS WHERE TO GO. WE MUST HURRY TO THE FIRST ROOM, BEFORE THE WATER SINKS ANY LOWER.

PUMP

YUSS. THE BEGINNINGS PLACE.

THERE'S NOT ENOUGH TIME! THE WATER IS FLOODING IN! EVERYBODY DOWN!

PUMPKIN!

THE MAXX WILL MAKE AN AIR SPACE FOR ALL HIS SMALL FRIENDS!

THE MAXX WILL PROTECT YOU WITH ALL HIS STRENGTH!

OUCHIE.

NOW I WILL FIGHT MY WAY ON TO VICTORY! MUST HOLD ON! CANNOT BLACK OUT!

KEEP RUNNING, MR. TALKS-TO-ITSELF, OR YOU'LL BE DROWNED AND *CRUSHED!*

PUMPKIN

YOU MAKE THAT SOUND LIKE A BAD THING.

OOPS, MR. RUTABAGA-HEAD IS GETTING AN UNHEALTHY ATTACHMENT TO MR. DIAL-A-DOODLE. BETTER PULL THEM APART!

AT LAST! WE CAN BREATHE WATER IN THE FIRST ROOM!

I MUST ENTER. I AM THE PROTECTOR! I...

HOLD IT, HORSE-BOY!

YEAH, YEAH! WELL, I'M THE KING, AND I SAY NOBODY GETS TO KNOW THE PRINCESS, EXCEPT ON MY SAY SO!

YOU WANNA BUY SOME LOVE? THREE BUCKS A BUSHEL!

IT'S NOT COOL TO HALLUCINATE, SWEETIE. YOUR POPS IS AS DEAD AS JANIS!

LOOK, MUVVY! DADDY TALK TO HORSIE!

LOOK, MR. RUTABAGA-HEAD! IT'S THE FIRST ROOM! WE CAN BREATHE!

PUMPKIN

THE FIRST ROOM? HOORAY!

NOT "FIRST ROOM," YOU IDIOTS! FIRST WOMB! WOMB! WOMB! SEE, THAT WAS THE POINT OF THE WATER! YOU BREATHE WATER IN THE WOMB, AND... NEVER MIND!

SARAH WASN'T BUYING THIS WHOLE PRINCESS METAPHOR ANYWAY. SHE DIDN'T EVEN SHOW UP. :CLK:

SHOW UP :CLK: SHOW UP :CLK: SHOW UP :CLK:

HEY, THIS MR. GONE ISN'T REAL. IT'S JUST A TAPE CASSETTE!

LIKE THE REST OF THIS IS REAL!

TRYING

I'M TRYING!

QUICK, MR. TALKS-TO-ITSELF, DO SOMETHING! WE'LL BE LOST! FORGOTTEN!

HEY, THE TAPE KEEPS UNRAVELING! THERE'S MILES OF IT! IT'S COVERING UP EVERYTHING!

SOMETIMES, SARAH, YOU CAN LIKE BE *SO* TRYING!

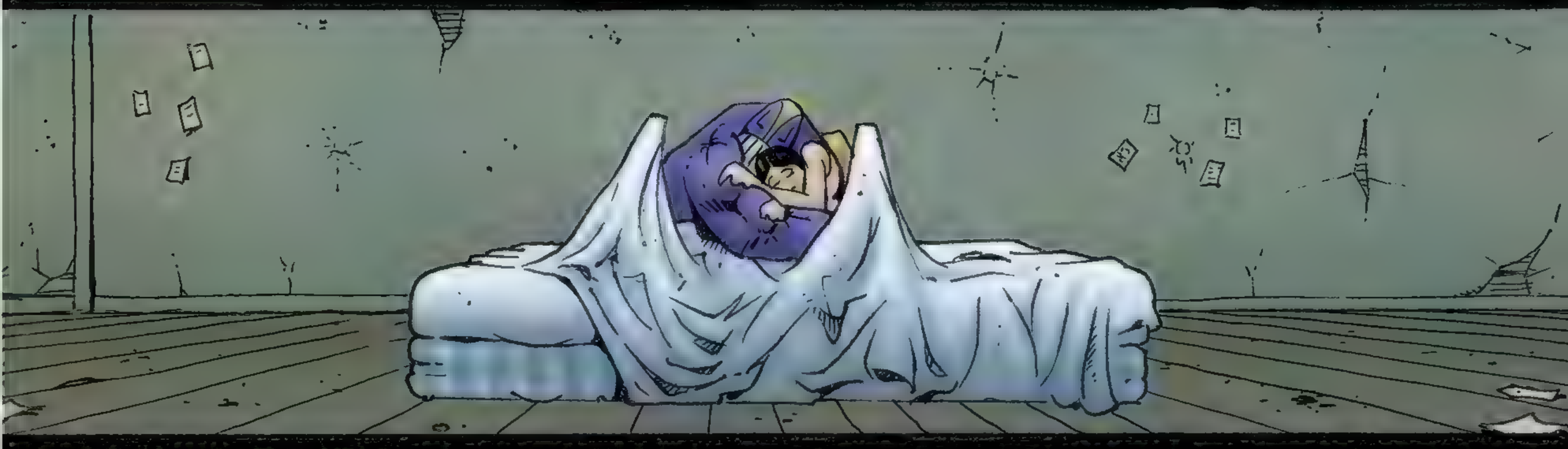
THAT WAS A BRAND NEW TAPE OF *EARTH, WIND* AND *FIRE!* I'LL LIKE NEVER GET IT BACK IN THE CASE. UNCOOL!

YOUR GRANDMA SHOULD SEE WHAT HER "*LITTLE PRINCESS*" IS LIKE ON DAYS LIKE *THIS*, HUH? *GO* AN' PLAY WITH YOUR TOYS IN LIKE THE NICE *QUILT CASTLE* YOUR GRAMPA BUILT FOR YOU! GET SOME...

...SLEEP...

...SLEEP...

...SLEEP...



OH, HI, MAXX. I GUESS WE, UH, MUST'VE FALLEN ASLEEP...HUH?

HI, SARAH... UH, YEAH. YEAH. I GUESS WE DID.

EEW, GAWD. WHERE WAS MY *HAND?*

ELO
OUT OF THE BLUE

PINK FLOYD
ANIMALS

AFTER THAT BIZARRE OUTBACK DREAM, I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED!

I CAN'T BELIEVE I WOULD'VE... NOT WITH **SARAH!** SHE'S WHAT...16? 17? I WOULD'VE **REMEMBERED** THAT!

I WONDER IF THERE'S SOME *DIPLOMATIC* WAY I CAN *WASH* MY HAND?

WHAT WAS THE DREAM ABOUT... LAWN FURNITURE AND QUILTS AND MR. DIAL-A-DOODLE...

SARAH, DID YOU HAVE A CASTLE--WELL, SORTA A CASTLE--MADE UP OF QUILTS AND LAWN FURNITURE WHEN YOU WERE A KID?

YEAH! I THOUGHT IT WAS THE GREATEST PLACE IN THE WORLD! BUT HOW DID *YOU* KNOW...?

OH, MAN. THEN IT WAS YOUR OUTBACK!

THAT WAS WHY IT WAS LEAKING! I DAMAGED IT, 'CAUSE I'M NOT YOUR MAXX! I TURNED IT UP SIDE DOWN!

AND THAT WOULD EXPLAIN *WHY* I WAS DREAMING ABOUT *YOU!*

HUH?

WELL, ABOUT YOUR *PAST* ANYWAY. WHO YOU WERE BEFORE YOU WERE THE MAXX.

MY... PAST?

OH, RIGHT. THAT'S YOUR SECRET IDENTITY AND STUFF. DON'T WORRY. I *ALWAYS* FORGET MY DREAMS.

NO, SARAH. YOU **CAN'T** FORGET! YOU HAVE TO **TELL** ME. **WHO** WAS I?

WELL, I...

CLIC

SHHH

CALL BIX

MAXX?!

AND SARAH?!